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STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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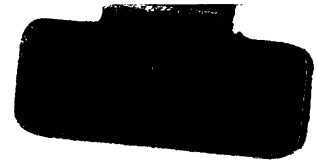

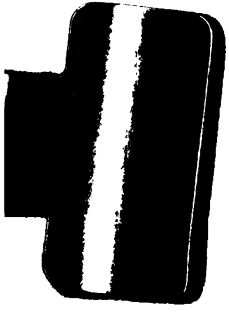

MESSAGE

OF HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES R. INGERSOLL,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, Governor.

TO THE

With Compliments of

CHARLES R INGERSOLL.

NEW HAVEN:
STAFFORD OFFICE PRINT.

1874.

MESSAGE

OF HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES R. INGERSOLL,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE,

MAY SESSION, 1874.

Printed by Order of the Legislature.

NEW HAVEN:
STAFFORD OFFICE PRINT.
1874.

MESSAGE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

I have renewed the oath to discharge the duties of the office of Governor of this state, to the best of my abilities, with a profound sense of its responsibility and a sincere desire to so maintain it as not to forfeit the confidence so generously reposed in me by the people of Connecticut.

CURRENCY.

Since the adjournment of the last General Assembly, a financial revulsion suddenly occurring and rapidly extending over the non-specie paying portion of the country, has seriously affected the industrial and commercial interests of our state, and would have resulted in wide-spread individual suffering but for the spirit of mutual forbearance and assistance so commendably exhibited by all portions of our community. Occurring, as it did, in the midst of an abundant harvest and in the absence of any general pestilence or other calamity, its causes must be looked for in human action alone, and it is not, in my judgment, difficult to discover them there. They lie in that abnormal condition produced by the great expansion of credits growing out of our civil war, of which the present prostration of business is the natural re-action. The enormous public expenditures required for that contest, and the consequent creation of public indebtedness in every possible shape to win the favor of the people and promote the circulation of its evidences through

the channels of business, would alone have been sufficient to so unduly excite a spirit of commercial adventure, as to subject the country to the hazards of a disastrous re-action. But when, in furtherance of this policy or impelled by this necessity, it was determined to discard, as the measure of our commercial values, the only standard recognized by the commercial world, and to substitute therefor, for our peculiar use, one of those very evidences of public indebtedness, with a value depending, at its best, upon the variableness of public credit and, at all times, subject to the chances of governmental interference, the consequences we now deplore were reasonably to be expected. The operation of such a stimulus was the same as it has invariably been under every circumstance of human history. Regular industry became distasteful, and daring speculation, finding its highest expression in stock gambling, became the passion of the country. It brought in its train over-action in all departments of business—the straining of credit to its utmost limit—extravagance of living—profligate expenditure, public and private—the parade of meretricious wealth—and a demoralization that has shown itself conspicuously in the public service. It was through the instinctive consciousness that this condition was an unhealthy one, that the first alarm so rapidly spread into a general panic. And all human experience attests what the reason of man so clearly perceives, that neither commercial soundness nor social health can be assured to that people, whose measure of exchangeable values is not itself of such intrinsic value that it cannot be varied by a legislative enactment. And, for this reason, simply, it is that the prolonged use of government bills of credit and all other devices of paper money, not at once convertible into coin, has uniformly been attended with financial disturbance, generally ending in commercial disaster. The founders of our government, schooled by a hard experience, undoubtedly supposed that they had guarded us from this peril by constitutional provisions. And even when our present legal tender act was passed, the pretence of any other justification for it than the overruling necessity of war was hardly made. And when the war closed, the danger of the step that had been taken was

most clearly seen, and the necessity for retracing it almost universally acknowledged. The government was solemnly pledged, by its declarations, through every department, to a restoration of the constitutional currency, as a measure demanded alike by morality and reason, and a financial policy was in fact initiated which, if adhered to, would before this have extricated the country from the peril that now impends. It is a sad commentary upon our public virtue that the courage has failed us to carry that policy out, and that we should be to-day, in the tenth year since the proclamation of peace, confronted by the question whether we shall now attempt a policy looking to the fulfillment of the public pledge to restore the currency to a condition of health by a coin redemption, or shall continue in a course which, unless human science is all at fault, can only drift into a further degradation of the currency, with all the wrong and injustice to individuals involved, in such a measure, and whatever may be the temporary stimulus, sure to end in disater. The recent defeat of the congressional currency bill by the action of the executive, is a subject for congratulation—but we shall greatly err if we suppose that this question can be so easily removed from our path. It still remains, and will and necessarily must remain so long as a government note remains dishonored by the failure to redeem it.

In addressing you thus at length upon this subject, I am not of course, unconscious that, as the evil I have deplored is not due to state legislation, so there are no means in your power to meet it, so far as it may be met by legislative remedy. But still the question so intimately concerns every individual in our state, and my convictions are so firm that without a fixed, proclaimed financial policy adapted, and clearly understood to be adapted, to the restoration of specie payments, we shall never be free from the evils that have so unsettled the business concerns of our busy people, that I have felt it to be my duty to call your attention to the subject, in the hope that you may in some degree be able, by whatever action may be practicable, to influence the legislation of Congress to that end.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

In accordance with the act of the last General Assembly, the proposed amendment to the constitution of the state, providing for the holding of all sessions of the General Assembly at Hartford, after the present official year, was, on the first Monday of October last, submitted to the electors of the state and by them approved; and proclamation has been made declaring it to be a part of the constitution.

This important organic change, breaking through a usage strengthened by the observance of nearly two centuries, evidences most strongly the altered circumstances of our state, since the adoption of the present constitution, and gives renewed force, it seems to me, to the considerations I presented to the General Assembly at its last session, and which it can not be necessary for me now to repeat, in favor of a convention for the revision of the entire instrument, in order to adapt it to our changed condition. It especially exposes the grossness of the present inequality of representation—since by the loss of that influence, which, necessarily attaches to the locality where the Legislature sits, and which has been with reason regarded as a compensation for inadequacy of representation, the largest town in the state, paying into the Treasury nearly one-sixth of the taxes levied upon the Grand List, is now brought, in respect of its representation to a simple level with several of the small towns, whose respective payments for like purposes do not equal the salary of one representative. The conventions of the leading political organizations of the state having united in approving a submission of this question to the people of the state, I indulge the hope, that you will not allow this auspicious opportunity to pass, without, at least, taking the necessary steps to that end, and thus remove such causes of jealousy as the present system is so likely to foster, and provide for the state an organic law, which shall be in harmony with the spirit of the present generation.

FINANCES—SAVINGS BANKS—RAILROADS—INSURANCE.

The condition of the Treasury is satisfactory. The fiscal year commences with eight hundred and sixty-three thousand

nine hundred and eighty-eight dollars and thirty-three cents ($863,988.33) on hand, and no floating debt, being an increase of nearly one hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars ($126,000) over the balance on hand last year.

The bonded debt of the state amounts to five million and fourteen thousand five hundred dollars ($5,014,500), at six per cent. interest. At the close of the war it was ten millions ($10,000,000). Bonds to the amount of eighty-one thousand four hundred dollars ($81,400) have been purchased during the last year, being all that were offered to the Department for that purpose.

The debt of the state has been reduced during the year two hundred and seven thousand three hundred and ten dollars and twenty-seven cents ($207,310.27).

The present Grand List of the state shows a total value of three hundred and fifty-four million ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and seven dollars ($354,099,707), being an increase of about five millions over the previous year.

The entire revenue collected during the last year by the state on account of the Civil List, was one million seven hundred and two thousand four hundred and twenty-seven dollars and fifty-six cents ($1,702,427.56); the principal sources of which were the one mill tax on the towns, producing four hundred and twenty-two thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty-six cents ($422,953.56); the tax on Savings Banks, producing five hundred and seven thousand one hundred and three dollars and twenty cents $507,103.20); the tax on railroad companies, producing two hundred and ninety-eight thousand four hundred and twenty-one dollars and four cents $298,421.04), and the tax on Mutual Insurance Companies, producing three hundred and twenty-seven thousand and twenty dollars and eight cents ($327,020.08).

The other details of revenue, and the expenditures, in fuller details than they can be conveniently given here, will appear by the reports of the Treasurer and Comptroller.

It is the opinion of the Treasurer, notwithstanding the reduction of the state tax from two mills to one mill, that, with economy the income of the state will be sufficient for

even the extra appropriations required for the new State House. But to ensure this, a suspension of further purchase of bonds would seem to be necessary, until the completion of the State House.

I hardly need add that I shall gladly co operate with you in any endeavor to reduce expenditures, and promote economy wherever it may be practicable.

There were seventy-nine Savings Banks in operation in the state January 1, 1874, holding deposits, in the aggregate, of seventy million seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand four hundred and seven dollars and ninety five cents, ($70,769,407.-95), being an increase, during the preceding year, of two million two hundred and forty-six thousand and ten dollars and seven cents, ($2,246,010.07). Their assets have increased du ring the year two million four hundred and six thousand one hundred and eighty-seven dollars and eighty-five cents, ($,406,-187.85)—the loans on real estate increasing about four millions of dollars with a decrease in loans and investments in personal estate of about two millions—the result, evidently, of the reduction of the tax on real estate loans.

The whole number of depositors, January 1, 1874, was two hundred and four thousand seven hundred and forty-one (204,741), of which one hundred and fifty-eight thousand three hundred and seventy-one (158,371) were depositors of less than five hundred dollars; their total deposits amounting to twenty-one million eight hundred and ninety-six thousand six hundred and eighty-five dollars ($21,896,685). The number of depositors of sums between five hundred and one thousand dollars was twenty-eight thousand three hundred and twenty-four; their deposits amounting to fifteen million nine hundred and seven thousand and sixteen dollars ($15,907,016). The number of depositors of sums over one thousand dollars each was eighteen thousand and forty-six (18,046); their deposits amounting to thirty-two million nine hundred and sixty-five thousand seven hundred and six dollars ($32,965,706).

It will thus be seen that very nearly one-half of the aggregate deposits were made by less than ten per cent. of the whole number of depositors, in sums of over one thousand dollars

each. But, although in this the true idea of a Savings Bank seems to have been lost sight of, and the institutions to that extent operated rather as Trust companies, for the investment of surplus capital, still the very large number of small depositors shows that the mass of the public dealing with these institutions in that character, have done so upon the faith that they are what they were only chartered to be, institutions for savings, and any legislation in regard to them should in the first place and before any other consideration, be directed to the security of the deposit thus made. Their managers should be regarded, as they are, both in name and the nature of their office, trustees for those who are so situated that they have neither the time, opportunity, nor means of knowledge to make safe investments of their savings, and no legislative restrictions, which shall serve to keep this fact constantly before their officers, should be objected to by any well regulated Savings Bank. It was, I apprehend, under a sense of the peculiar responsibility of the state to the public for the management of these institutions, that a commission was appointed by the last General Assembly to make a special examination of their condition, and report to the General Assembly. I commend this report to your most considerate attention. I especially approve its recommendation to restrict the loans by Savings Banks on personal security to forty per cent. of their deposits on hand.

There are twenty-two railroad corporations having roads wholly or in part in this state, of a total extent of eleven hundred and ninety-seven (1197) miles, of which eight hundred and ninety-six (896) miles are in this state; being an increase of twenty-eight miles during last year.

They have transported during the year ten million five hundred and forty-two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one (10,542,821) passengers, being an increase over the preceding year of four hundred and eight thousand one hundred and eighty-eight (408,188), without fatal injury to any passenger except in two instances, resulting from incaution of the passenger on leaving a train. Other instances of injury, to the total number of one hundred and ten (110,) have occurred, of

which fifty-nine resulted in death. Of the whole number of cases of injury, except of passengers or employees, almost two-thirds were of persons walking or lying on the track.

The total cost of these roads and equipment was fifty-four million six hundred and fifty-nine thousand twenty-nine dollars and eighty-two cents ($54,659,029.82), represented by a total nominal capital of forty-four million six hundred and ninety thousand seven hundred dollars $(44,690,700), of which thirty-six million sixty-eight thousand six hundred and ninety-four dollars and sixty-two cents ($36,068,694.62) has been paid in.

The gross earnings of all the companies, for the year ending September 30, 1873, were twelve million thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and thirty-three cents ($12,037,986.33), of which about one-half was received from passengers. The total net income amounted to two million five hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred and sixty-three dollars ($2,586,463), of which all but about fifty thousand dollars has been paid in dividends by nine corporations.

For the details of information, respecting our great interest of Insurance, I refer you to the report of the Insurance Commissioner. There are one hundred and twenty (120) fire, fire-marine, and marine insurance companies doing business in this state, representing a cash capital of about thirty millions of dollars, and gross assets of about seventy-seven millions. There are twenty-nine life and accident companies doing business in the state, of which ten are home companies. The assets of the home companies aggregate nearly eighty-five millions of dollars, and of the other state companies, about one hundred and ninety-one millions, being a total increase over last year of about twenty-five millions of dollars.

EDUCATION.

The educational department of the state appears to be in a high state of efficiency. Tested by the number of children, in proportion to the population, who actually receive its benefits by attendance at school, it is believed to be first of all the states. The number of children in the state attending

schools of all kinds during the last year, was one hundred and twenty-three thousand, three hundred and eighty-six (123,386), of which number all but eight thousand, five hundred and twenty-nine (8,529) attended the public schools. The number of public schools is sixteen hundred and forty-eight (1648), and the number of teachers employed about twenty-five hundred.

The receipts from all sources for the support of the public schools in 1873 were:—

From District and Town taxes,	$1,098,428 63
" State tax,	199,272 00
" School fund,	132,848 00
" Town Deposit fund,	45,452 58
" Local funds,	12,196 45
" Voluntary contributions,	7,172 42
" Other sources,	47,119 12
	$1,542,489 20

The capital of the School Fund is two million forty-four thousand, one hundred and ninety dollars and eighty-one cents ($2,044,190.81), and divides one dollar to each child of school age.

The Normal School has graduated forty-three pupils during the year;—the whole number in attendance from April 1, 1873, to April 1, 1874, was two hundred and ten.

The income of the fund held by the School Fund Commissioner, under the national land grant for the promotion of scientific education, amounting to eighty-one hundred dollars ($8100), is paid, under the legislative acts heretofore passed, to the Sheffield Scientific School, and, in consideration of it, thirty free scholarships in that institution are now at the disposition of the state, three having been added by the school to the number they engaged by their contract to provide, in order to make the apportionment among the several counties more equal. I am gratified to state that these scholarships are now in great demand. They have all been granted under the conditions of the statute, and result in giving to the educational department of the state the advantages, to this limited extent,

of a Polytechnic School, the institution having justly acquired, in this respect, a position second to none other in the country.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The charities of the state form an important item of our state expenditure. They have been dispensed during the year in the accustomed manner, and have relieved, as my opportunities of knowledge justify me in stating, much individual suffering and family distress, which could not otherwise have been reached.

The state aids, by pecuniary contribution, upon the order of the Governor, every poor or indigent insane person in the state while under treatment at the Middletown Hospital. It gives like aid toward the training of all indigent imbecile children at the Lakeville School, and the education of the indigent blind at the institutions for that purpose in Massachusetts. It pays the tuition of all the deaf and dumb children in the state, who desire instruction, at the American Asylum, to the extent of the Legislative appropriation, and, in special cases, at the Whipple School, and it defrays the hospital bills of all honorably discharged soldiers of the state during the late war, while under medical treatment at either of the hospitals at New Haven or Hartford. Nearly nine hundred persons have received aid in these various ways from the state ring the last year, at a total expense of nearly one hundred thousand dollars. Besides this, it has, the last year, appropriated nearly ninety thousand dollars for the support of soldiers' children in the different towns, and about twenty-seven hundred dollars for the few paupers, whose support does not belong to any town. The appropriation for soldiers' children is necessarily decreasing.

The Hospital for the Insane at Middletown is the only one of these institutions under the absolute control of the state. Its extensive and valuable buildings are owned by the state, and have been entirely paid for. Their completeness and admirable adaptation to the purposes of their construction, testify to the official fidelity of the commissions charged with that work. A new wing, capable of accommodating one hundred

male patients, was completed for admission of patients in January last, and is rapidly filling up. The entire hospital has accommodations for four hundred and fifty patients, but there are three hundred and ninety-four patients now under treatment. It is to be apprehended, therefore, that additional accommodations will, at no very distant day, be needed. This necessity, which certainly was not anticipated at such an early day, when the hospital was projected, is due in great measure to the chronic condition of that large number of patients who have been removed to the institution from the alms-houses of the towns, where the treatment necessary to their cure could not have been had, and who cannot, therefore, be discharged to make room for new patients. To this is also due the fact, that of the 394 patients now in the hospital, only 35 are regarded as curable. The purposes of the institution as a State Hospital have been very closely regarded in its management, and of 896 patients admitted since its beginning, 799 have been beneficiaries of the state. Its financial management the last year has also been satisfactory, showing an income of about ninety-two thousand dollars against an expenditure of about eighty-seven thousand dollars. I commend to your attention for fuller particulars respecting this interesting and most important institution, the Report of the Trustees, with the specially interesting report of Dr. Shew, to whose able superintendence I take pleasure in bearing this testimony.

At the School for Imbeciles, at Lakeville, in Salisbury, there are now sixty-four pupils, of which twenty-nine are state beneficiaries, and of these, twenty have lost one or both parents. By recent enlargement of the buildings, 100 can be accommodated. The results of Dr. Knights' training of these unfortunates are very satisfactory.

Sixty-six scholars have been aided by the state at the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, during the year, at an expense of $9,279.23, and fifteen blind children have been aided at the Perkins' Institute in Boston.

One hundred and eighty-two discharged soldiers have been under medical and surgical treatment at the hospitals in New Haven and Hartford, at a total expense of about $18,000.

These beneficent institutions, sustained, in large degree, by the voluntary services of the medical profession in those cities, and by the charitable contributions of citizens, are well deserving of the incidental support thus given to them by the state.

Pursuant to the act of the last General Assembly, organizing a Board of State Charities, I appointed as that board, Messrs. Benjamin Stark, of New London, Samuel F. Jones, of Hartford, Levi Ives, of New Haven, Mrs. Mary M. Pettee, of Meriden and Mrs. Jeannie P. Hoyt, of Stamford, and they have entered upon its important duties. Their report will advise you of the operations of the board.

PENAL AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

The affairs of the State Prison, under the superintendence of Warden Botelle, whose resignation has been received by the Directors with great regret, have been most satisfactorily conducted. Notwithstanding a reduction of the price of prison labor, necessitated by the prostration of business during the last winter, a net income of two thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars and thirty cents ($2,114.30) has been received into the Treasury from the prison. The appropriation heretofore made for repair of the buildings has been expended, and an additional five thousand dollars is thought by the Directors to be necessary for the same purpose. In this connection, I would call your favorable attention to the recommendation of the Directors, that a commission be appointed to consider the propriety of erecting new prison buildings.

The number of convicts now in the prison is one hundred and eighty-one (181), of whom only two are females—one white and one colored. One hundred and fifty-two of these convicts were born within, and twenty-nine without the United States. A remarkable change has occurred in the sanitary condition of the prison—pulmonary consumption which, twenty years ago, was regarded as the scourge of the prison, having now become a disease of comparatively rare occurrence.

The State Reform School has sustained a grievous loss during the last year, by the death of Dr. E. W. Hatch, for many

years its Superintendent, and to whose intelligence, energy and administrative abilities, the state is largely indebted for its success. The Assistant Superintendent, Mr. S. B. Little, has been, since the death of Dr. Hatch, in charge of the institution. During the year 200 boys have been received into the school, and 190 discharged. The present number is 311. The whole number committed to the school since its opening in 1854 is 2,146.

A commission was appointed by the last General Assembly to enquire into the penal treatment of persons arrested for drunkenness and kindred offences, and the expediency of establishing an asylum for inebriates. It will report at this session with important recommendations, which merit your careful consideration, especially as affecting the offence of vagrancy or tramping, which is largely increasing in the state. The stringent laws of Massachusetts and New York on this subject have probably promoted this increase in our state, and similar legislation on our part would seem to be necessary in self-defense.

The Trustees of the Industrial School for Girls report that, notwithstanding certain disturbing influences attending a change of Superintendent, the school has been in a prosperous condition, and is fulfilling all reasonable expectations of its friends. The whole number of girls received since its opening is 176. The number now under care is 76, representing forty-three towns in different parts of the state. A box factory has been established in connection with the school, and it is hoped by means of it to make the institution financially independent.

STATE HOUSES.

In accordance with the act of the last General Assembly, providing for the appointment by the Governor of a new commission, to be charged with the construction of the new State House, I appointed, as such commission, Jeremiah Halsey, of Norwich, Alfred E. Burr, of Hartford, Nathaniel Wheeler, of Bridgeport, Austin Dunham, of Hartford and William P. Trowbridge, of New Haven, who have entered upon its duties,

and will report in detail to the General Assembly, at its present session, the progress of the work, with information regarding the changes from the original contract plan which they have felt bound to make, in deference to the generally expressed views on the subject by the members of the last General Assembly. The walls of the first story will be substantially completed by the 15th of the present month. The total expenditures to the present time are about two hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars.

As the present State House in New Haven cannot be used for the sessions of the General Assembly after the present official year, it will be your duty to provide for the disposition of the building when it shall cease to be used for state purposes. It is erected upon the public ground of the city of New Haven.

NATIONAL GUARD.

The National Guard continues to maintain its high standard of military efficiency. Its quota of officers and men is fully kept up, and the expenses are within the avails of the commutation tax. The law of 1871 is justified by its workings, and a more effective militia force, it is believed, does not exist in the Union. Great credit is due for this to both officers and men, without whose personal interest in the organization the present fine condition of the several regiments could not be maintained. I refer you to the reports of the Adjutant and Quartermaster Generals for further details.

AGRICULTURE—LABOR STATISTICS.

The report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture merits your special consideration. The evidence it affords of the interest taken in the agriculture of our state, by both the scientist and the practical farmer, is very gratifying, and its beneficial results are by no means confined to our own state. The board recommend the establishment of an agricultural experiment station in Connecticut, and enforce their recommendation by evidence of the success of such stations elsewhere, which will commend the subject to your favorable attention.

Under the act of the last session establishing a Bureau of

Labor Statistics, I appointed, in October last, James F. Babcock, of New Haven, chief, and Charles C. Commerford, of Waterbury, deputy of such bureau. The results of the operations of the bureau during the brief period since its organization, will appear in a report, which I am advised will be made to you at your present session.

REVISION OF STATUTES.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly in 1872 to revise the public statutes have completed their work, and will make their report at the present session, and it will demand, as I doubt not it will receive, your careful and patient consideration.

In this connection I beg to call your attention to the loose and inaccurate manner in which our session laws have been sometimes framed, the sense of them being rendered equivocal by errors of language not creditable to our educational system. Undoubtedly this is often due to some incongruous amendment which has been allowed to a bill carefully framed in committee, but I apprehend that generally it has been the result of inattention in committee. Whether it is practicable to have such a revision of all public acts, after their passage and before engrossment, as will remove errors of this sort, is a question worthy of your consideration.

CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

The Centennial Commission having in charge the exhibition contemplated to be held in Philadelphia, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of our national independence, have indicated a desire for the appointment, by state authority, of state boards of managers to act on that occasion in conjunction with the Commission, but with special reference to the interests of their respective states. No state in the Union has greater reason than Connecticut to participate in commemorating a day with which our history is so conspicuously identified, nor is any state more fortunate in being able to make such participation becomingly by an exhibition of the products of its own industry. But the plans of the commis-